ber, 1987 with the following terms of reference:—

(i) To study the drawbacks if any in the efficient functioning of the existing administrative and municipal authorities in Delhi more specifically the Metropolitan Council, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, the New Delhi Municipal Committee, the Cantonment Board, the Delhi Development Authority, The Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking, the Delhi Water Supply and Sewage Disposal Undertaking, the Delhi Transport Corporation, and the Delhi Milk Supply;

(ii) to examine the nature and extent of the overlapping of functions, if any, and the difficulties experienced by the common man in his day to day dealing with such authorities;

(iii) to make recommendations keeping in view (i) and (ii) above regarding rationalisation or reorganisation or streamlining of the administrative and municipal set up with a view to (a) ensuring efficiency and effectiveness in the functioning of various authorities by such modifications in structures as may be necessary so as to have a cohesive and coordinated set up with properly defined spheres of authority for each of them (b) avoiding overlapping of functions between various authorities by bringing about adequate decentralisation of powers and clear-cut demarcation of functions and responsibility and (c) securing all round improvement in providing services to the public and for quicker redressal of public grievances;

(iv) to make recommendations for amendments to existing laws or enactment of a new law wherever necessary;

(v) to make such other suggestions or recommendations as the Committee may consider necessary to secure the objective.

(c) a sum of Rs. 9,06,024/- has been incurred upto 30 June, 1988.

(d) The Committee is expected to submit its report before 31 December, 1988.

Report of Reserve Bank on cotton growing farmers

1637. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI:

SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank had constituted high powered committee under its Deputy Governor, Dr. P. D. Ojha to examine the financial problems of the cotton-growing farmers of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, etc. so as to stop repetition of the cases of suicides by the suffering cotton-growing farmers of these areas;

(b) if so, what are its recommendations and what is government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether Government propose to implement them in Andhra Pradesh and other States so that the farmers get the benefit before the next cotton crop season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) A High Powered Committee headed by Dr. P. D. Ojha, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India was constituted by the Government of India to look into the problems relating to Cotton Growers in the two districts of Andhra Pradesh *viz*, Guntur and Prakasam. The Committee has submitted its report and suggested following short-term and long-term measures:

Short-term measures:

(i) Moratorium for repayment for two years may be given by banks as a special case to all affected farmers in these two districts irrespective of the

number of bad crop years. This facility is however, to be extended on the merits of each case.

(ii) Interest on short-term loan payable by small and marginal farmers should not exceed the principal amount.

(iii) A short-term loan of all affected farmers should be converted into medium term loan having repayment period of 3-5 years and the banks should charge simple rate of interest on converted loan accounts.

(iv) In the case gold loans, the ornaments pledged should be auctioned only as a last resort and that too after having the approval of the higher officials.

(v) The banks should extend loans for allied activities *i.e.* dairy, poultry to supplement the income of the affected farmers.

(vi) The consumption loan facility upto Rs. 500 should be given to affected farmers.

Long-term measures:

(i) ICAR should develop white fly/helothis resistent varieties of cotton.

(ii) The Government should ensure availability of effective pesticide even if it may require import of some chemicals.

(iii) A Board at National level for regulating the cotton production and marketing may be set up as in the case of tobacco and jute.

(iv) Measures should be taken to increase irrigation facilities in the two districts. The farmer should be educated to diversify the cropping pattern instead of concentrating on cotton. The State Government should take effective measures for checking the supply of spurious pesticides by taking exemplary stern action against delinguent.

Based on the recommendations of the High Powered Committee, RBI has issued necessary instructions to banks for providing relief to cotton growers of the two affected districts *viz.* Guntur and Prakasam. The instructions issued by RBI vide their letter dated 29-6-88 inter-alia provide for the following facilities.

1. The banks as a special case should defer recovery of principal as well as interest from the affected farmers for a period of two years or till the next normal year whichever is earlier.

2. Banks should not charge penal interest nor should they compound the interest on dues postponed.

3. Banks should stop auctioning of gold ornaments pledged with them. Such action be taken as a last resort and that too after obtaining clearance from higher levels.

4. Banks may extend consumption loan facilities upto Rs. 500/- per family.

Agreement with Swiss Government for Secret Assets

1638. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in September last, the Government of India and Switzerland had agreed on the draft of an accord enabling India to secure Swiss help for lifting their bank's secrecy in investigation of certain offences; if so, what steps were taken in this regard in the following months;

(b) whether in November last the Swiss Minister of Justice Ms. Koop said in Washington that the Government of India had yet to ask for any specific information from the Swiss Government if so, what are the facts thereof; and

(c) on which date the names of banks and of the companies holding Swiss accounts and also the account numbers relating to the Bofors pay-off were published; on these clues, whether Government filed an FIR about swindling and fraudu-